

*Office of Economic Affairs
Bureau of Commerce*

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USSR (Unclassified)

Official View of Domestic Technology

In a recent full-dress review of industrial production in

the USSR, Premier Bulganin criticized industry leadership for lagging behind foreign technological achievements. Soviet machinery factories, Bulganin stated, are producing models of equipment that are behind the best foreign products in their field. Lack of progress in production of equipment, according to Bulganin, deters the introduction of advanced technology in all other branches of economic production.

The level of technology, he said, depends to a large extent on the development of machine tool design and construction. The Soviet machine tool industry has not lived up to expectations. In particular, Soviet plants have not succeeded in keeping industry fully supplied with modern multiple-position, metal-cutting automatics, or with grinding, gear-cutting, and other types of machine tools.

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The productivity of Soviet industry, in the opinion of Bulganin, is seriously retarded by the fact that Soviet makers of metals processing equipment have failed thus far to provide industry with the necessary types of presses, forges, and casting machines for use in the application of progressive methods to the production of component parts and sub-assemblies required for large-scale industrial production.